



The Blazer Post

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



October 2015



School Office Hours

Mon - Fri

7:30am - 4:00pm

October Spirit
Dress Up Day

Career Day on Oct 16

Stay up to date -
Check out our School
Website
www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/buchanan

Upcoming Friday Spirit Assemblies

October 2

October 16

at 8:30am

In the amphitheater



School Notes

Buchanan Families,

We begin the month of October with our family friendly PTA sponsored Fall Festival this Friday, October 2, 2015 from 5 - 8 pm in our quad area. Please bring your family and join us for some good old fashion fun! October is also our Red Ribbon Week celebration where we participate in the nation's largest drug prevention program encouraging and educating students to pledge to live a drug free, healthy life. This drug prevention program includes our Think First Assembly, VMHS pep rally and Bring Your Parents to Lunch picnic style.

Parent conferences will be taking place Monday, October 19 - Friday, October 23, 2015. These conferences provide parents and teachers a wonderful opportunity to meet and learn about the progress your child is making this year towards grade level standards. Conference notices will be sent home electronically or as a hard copy this year.

Did you know.....

- That ATTENDANCE MATTERS! It is important that your child is at school on time each and every day.
- Our PTA sponsored Running Club is looking for a few more runners to join them every Tuesday and Thursday on the grass field at 8am.
- Our School Wide Reading program begins this month! Please take a moment to read with you child daily.
- PTA Reflections program is underway and entries are due October 9th.

Good things are happening at Buchanan Elementary!
Jennifer Randel and Jim Curtis

Parent Conferences - 1st Reporting Period October 19 - 23

Monday is an Early Release Day. Grades 1-3 are out at 1:40pm
Grades 4-5 are out at 1:45pm
Early Bird TK & K students attend 8:20-11:40am
Late Bird K students attend 10:15am-1:35pm

Tuesday thru Friday are *Minimum Days*. Grades 1-3 are out at 12:05pm
Grades 4-5 are out at 12:10pm
ALL TK and K students attend 8:20-11:40am



Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.
—Albert Einstein



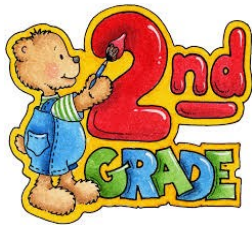
Kindergarten News

Our TK and Kinders have had a busy month. TK has been working on families, shapes, and counting to 5. Kindergarten is wrapping up a unit on community and working together to help each other. They are also finishing up a chapter on comparing number sets to 5. Each class had an Apple Day and learned about Johnny Appleseed. We are all counting up to 50s Day coming soon in October. In addition, all classes are starting assessments for report cards so staying healthy during this time is so important. Make sure your child is getting enough sleep and please send healthy, low sugar snacks to school (actually, this is important year round!). We are looking forward to meeting with all parents during parent/teacher conference week in October. Those days will be minimum days, so Late Bird parents take note that your child will be coming for morning hours on those days!



First Grade News

Happy Fall! First grade students have had several weeks to adjust to the demands of first grade and we are very proud of their perseverance in all areas. They are continuing to learn to use math talk, problem solve, and to use different mathematical strategies. The students are also finding success using the i-Read and FastMath computer programs and are working toward meeting their goals. Way to go, first graders!



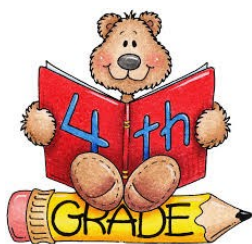
Second Grade News

Second grade is off to a great school year! We are excited to be beginning our next Language Arts unit which is Nature Walk. We have many exciting plans for October. Some of them will include studying maps, camping, habitats, and living and non-living things. We will also have a presentation from a local Park Ranger and be going on a nature walk around Harveston Lake. Happy Fall!



Third Grade News

Third grade has scheduled the Santa Rosa Plateau field trip dates. The first two classes going are Mr. Nickoloff and Mrs. Naerbo. All other classes will be going later in the year. In math, we have been focusing on multiple strategies to use in addition and subtraction. Students need to have a strong conceptual understanding of number sense versus learning a procedure. We are also practicing "math talk" to help students explain their thinking when solving problems in math.



Fourth Grade News

We are well into the swing of 4th grade and by now your child should have turned many routines into good habits! Reminder binders should have all assignments written in them nightly. Math facts, spelling, and vocabulary words should be practiced daily according to your teachers' instructions. October reading logs went home so please be sure to keep track of your minutes read! Thank you for your continued support of your 4th grader and we will see you at conferences!



Fifth Grade News

During the month of September the 5th graders have been learning strategies for multiplication and division. The students have learned how to multiply using partial products and divide using partial quotients. The students took the SMI for the first time this year. The kids are working on building up their stamina for the mile run and completing stations to help strengthen their muscles. Several classes are doing research on famous people and natural disasters. The stories in our reading anthology were a springboard for these topics. In Science the students have been learning about matter and participating in several experiments to illustrate matter's properties.



Educational Specialists

As Educational Specialists, we are here to support our students and our teachers in a variety of ways. Our team has an abundance of knowledge when it comes to accommodations, supports and services that can be utilized on our school campus. Our team of specialist includes: Specialized Academic instructors K-5, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Adaptive Physical Education, Deaf and Hard of hearing, Physical Therapists and many other services. We have an incredible pre-school program as well. We are here to answer any questions parents may have about supports or services at Buchanan. Services will be starting and this year is off to a great start.

Drama Club



Congratulations to all of our Drama Club participants! Just a reminder that rehearsals for the Ensemble (Mrs. Cato's and Mrs. Prario's groups) meets right after school until 4:00. Speakers (Mrs. Hern's group) meets right after school until 4:30. ALL groups this year will go directly to the lunch tables to eat their snacks. Then the Ensemble group will go with their teachers and the Speakers will walk to the MPR for practice with Mrs. Hern.

Parents we would appreciate it if you would pick up your children promptly after Drama Club. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please email khern@murrieta.k12.ca.us or call 951-696-1428 x. 2741. Thank you!



October 26th is a non-student day

It is a Professional Development Day for the staff

Students—enjoy your day off.

Celebration Policy

Per MVUSD policy regarding food allergies, any food brought on campus to be shared with other students needs to have prior approval from school personnel.

As an alternative suggestion to food for student celebrations (i.e. birthdays), you may donate a book to the classroom or school library honoring your student. Another idea is to bring in a goody bag (**with no food items**) or a **non-food treat** for each student in the class.

Thank you for adhering to this policy for the safety of all students and staff.



Buchanan Elementary SSC Meeting

October 6, 2015

3:30pm Room E8



Attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Minutes of March 12, 2015

Agenda of October 6, 2015

III. Action Items

School Site Council members introduced themselves.

Election of Officers - President, Vice President and Secretary

IV. New Business

Role of School Site Council -

Buchanan Elementary Overview Powerpoint

Local Control Funding Formula.

Next School Site Council meeting the following will be reviewed and discussed -

Parent Involvement Plan, School Safety Plan and Technology Plan

Next Meeting date - December 8th at 3:30 in room E8

V. Adjourn



ELAC Meeting

The next ELAC meeting will be Thursday, October 15th at 5pm in the library.

A Message from the Health Office



Health Alert-Food Allergies/Sensitivities

We have several students in our school that may have food allergies, food sensitivities or dietary restrictions. Food allergies can trigger reactions that range from very mild to life threatening (anaphylaxis). Generally, an individual must ingest a food allergen to have a reaction, but for some, even being exposed to it or ingesting a very small amount can cause a life threatening reaction. As a result, there are several procedures that will help to prevent exposure and reduce the risk of anaphylaxis and help keep all of our students safe:

1. Students should be encouraged to wash their hands upon arrival to the classroom and again before and after lunch. This not only is good for food allergies, but helps reduce disease transmission.
2. The classrooms should be peanut/tree nut/food allergy *aware* spaces. Classroom projects or assignments should NOT include the use of peanut butter/nuts or other food items. Any exception to this rule would require pre-approval and prior notification to parents.
3. Any food or snack that may be provided/shared must have pre-approval and prior notification must be provided to all parents prior so they can make alternate choices. Additionally, all food items provided should be pre-packaged and food ingredients must be known or labeled. ***Suggestions for class sharing (birthday parties, etc.) may be providing or donating a book for the classroom or other non-food items.***

If your student has a food allergy, please make sure you contact/inform the Health Office. You may want to speak to the School Nurse if the allergy requires medication or other interventions. Students with food allergies may be entitled to accommodations or plans to address their needs. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to provide all of our students with a safe learning environment. We appreciate your care and support of our students and school.

Student Lunches and Cafeteria Meals

Due to parent concerns and health/food allergies, students and parents should not share lunches with other students. Parents who join their student during lunch time will eat with their student at the tables under the blue canvas cover.

Student Meal Prices: Breakfast - Full Pay \$1.50 Reduced price \$.30
Lunch - Full Pay \$2.50 Reduced price \$.40
Milk or Juice - \$.50 Bottled Water - \$.75



Free and reduced lunch applications are to be completed online at www.fma.murrieta.k12.ca.us or you can pick up an application in the school office
Parents can make payments to lunch accounts at www.myschoolbucks.com

Give your child the best start to the day - Be on time



Remember, the bell rings to line up at 8:20 am each morning for grades 1-5. Please be sure to drop your children off at school on time. Prompt attendance is crucial to maximize student learning. Arriving to school just five minutes late each morning adds up to nearly *three full days* of missed instruction over the course of the school year!

Thank you for your support.



The Blazer Way Moment

Be Responsible: Means Being Organized

“You need to clean your room.” Parents have said this or something like it to their kids for as long as there have been kids who have rooms. In other words, for most of recorded history. So, what does it mean to our kids? For most it means shove things under the bed, into cupboards, or in the closet. If you ask them to find something after this type of cleaning, good luck. The simple reason is that most kids do not think about cleaning up and organization as the same thing. Clean up means get things out of the way. As for organization, let’s face it, for some of our kids it is a word from a foreign language.

As part of Buchanan’s effort to teach behavioral and life skills, or the Blazer Way, we are teaching ‘Being Organized’ this month. Not only will we break down what this means at school, but attempt to model ways to get and stay organized in all aspects of life. We will be calling it the ABC’Cs of organization. Four steps to organize your materials for school that can also be used in other areas of their lives as they grow up:

1. Assess

▶ 1. Assess what you have

- ▶ Do I use this?
- ▶ Will I use this?
- ▶ Do I NEED this?



2. Bundle

▶ 2. Bundle your things

- ▶ How can I sort my things?
- ▶ You have to be able to find it fast and easily
- ▶ Can I combine anything?
- ▶ Should you separate homework from classwork?



3. Contain

▶ 3. Contain your supplies and organize them.

- ▶ Backpack, folder, binder?
- ▶ How do you keep track?
 - ▶ Write it down
 - ▶ Agenda
 - ▶ Reminder Binder



4. Check organization

▶ 4. Check again

- ▶ Check your backpack once a week



As many of us know, learning organization is a lifelong skill. Being able to keep track of what needs to be done and organizing work schedules with family schedules are challenging to do consistently well. At Buchanan we try not to forget this part of the education process that works hand in hand with the academic side. After all, it is the Blazer Way!

We Need Your Help in the Parking Lot

Student safety is our number one concern. It is extremely important that parents and students use the crosswalk when walking to and from the parking lot. If you are picking up your children in your car, please ask them to wait for you in front of the Multi Purpose Room and not by the kindergarten gate area. Remember to keep moving forward so we can get as many cars as possible into the loop. Please do not leave your car unattended. With your help, we can keep the students safe. Please be patient and take your time when entering and exiting the parking lot. Remember, the loop is a NO cell phone use area. Safety is our top priority.



Upcoming School Spirit Day

October's Spirit Day is October 16th

Career Day - Dress up in the career you would like to be!



Box Top Contest



Our first contest period ends on October 15th. The classroom from each grade that submits the most box tops will get to play a kickball game with Mrs. Randel and Mr. Curtis. Our Mr. Keith will be the umpire! Send in those box tops now!!

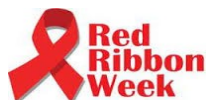
The Blazer Way Means - Being Safe



Every October schools all across the state of California participate in the "Great Shake Out" Earthquake and Evacuation Drill. This year this will occur on October 15th. The purpose is to test the schools procedures and make improvements in the event of a real disaster. These procedures include but are not limited to evacuation, location and treatment of missing or injured staff and students, and student check out. We, as staff, place a great value in this because it allows us to assess one of our primary goals, keeping your student's safe in all situations.

Buchanan's 3rd Annual ASB Jog-a-Thon

Students will be able to participate in our Third Annual Jog-a-Thon to raise money for field trip admissions, buses and other enriching activities. All funds donated for laps ran will go directly to your student's grade level. The Jog-a-thon will be held October 20th & 21st with the pledge monies due October 30th. The event is also held to encourage physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle while raising funds for enriching activities. More information will be coming home with your students.



October 27-30. Our theme this year is "The Choice is Yours! Be Drug Free!"
Look forward to a fun week as we encourage Buchanan students to say no to drugs.

October Counselor's Corner



PBIS Target of the Month: “Be Safe”

What is PBIS?

Our district utilizes Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS), a systematic approach to teach behavioral expectations throughout the school. It is based on a proactive model which teaches the behaviors, reinforces and recognizes students who are able to model these behaviors and has systems in place to support students who have a difficult time or may present with more challenging behaviors.

We focus on **3 Expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible**. Throughout the year Social Skills lessons will be taught that align with these three expectations. This month is “Be Safe,” as it aligns with our National Bully Prevention month activities.

Buchanan Blazer Families,

We are excited to be at Buchanan encouraging and supporting the students, parents, and staff. This past month we have been busy getting into classrooms and delivering life skills lessons about being a respectful learner by teaching the social skills of focusing attention and listening. We talked about how these skills are important at school and at home. Listening also helps us to “Be Safe”... especially in emergency situations.

Children are learning safe habits by observing behaviors of those in their lives. If parents and guardians are wearing seatbelts, looking both ways before crossing the street, and not talking on cell phones or texting while driving, children will be more likely to practice these safe habits as well. An area parents could contribute to safety on campus is during Student Pick Up and Drop Off.

Please...

1. Pull all the way forward in the loop , letting your child walk to /from your car for pick up & drop off.
2. Park in the neighborhood and walk your student to class, unattended cars in the loop create safety issues through blocking traffic flow.

Have a Safe and Fun October!

Ms. Richardson & Dr. Rieger

(951) 696-1428 Ext 2723



October Happenings

Buchanan Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Running Club	2 Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band	3
4	5 Early Release Day	6 Running Club	7 7:30am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade 5th Grade Band Lessons	8 Running Club Drama Club	9 5th Grade Band	10
11	12 Early Release Day	13 Running Club	14 7:30am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade 5th Grade Band Lessons	15 Running Club Drama Club	16 Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band Dress Up Day— Career Day	17
18	19 Early Release Day	20 Running Club Jog-a-thon K-2nd	21 7:30am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade Jog-a-thon 3rd-5th 5th Grade Band Lessons	22 Running Club	23 Box Tops Contest Ends	24
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Minimum Day Schedule for Parent Conferences Oct 20-23 </div>						
25	26 No School for Students Staff Development	27 Running Club	28 7:30am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade 5th Grade Band Lessons	29 Running Club Drama Club	30 5th Grade Band Jog-a-thon Envelopes due	31

